

February 16, 2015

Members of the Committee:

My name is Laurie Yamamoto. I am from Billings where I served as Regional Supervisor for Adult Protective Services (APS) for over two decades., retiring in November 2014,. My experiences in APS prompt me to respond to the hearsay bill now being considered.

APS is obligated by statute to investigate referrals of abuse, neglect or exploitation of disabled adults and seniors over the age of sixty. Referrals received are objectively investigated to determine if adult maltreatment occurred. In some instances where there may be a criminal component, APS investigative materials are turned over to law enforcement and they may in turn recommend prosecution to the county attorney.

The resonating concern at all levels is for the vulnerable adult who likely has some level of impairment and/or diminished capacity. They have difficulty explaining their story or may be deceased by the time of prosecution. This hearsay bill would provide for substitute testimony in certain instances. The bill itself has many qualifiers to insure the appropriate use of hearsay testimony. I believe passage of the bill would assist in the prosecution of cases involving vulnerable adults who have been victimized.

Respectfully submitted,



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